Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

These ~~feature~~ features each has advantages including a low-bit-rate hybrid coder using the voicing of weakly-voiced frames to enhance the waveform coder and avoiding phase discontinuities at the switching between parametric and waveform coded frames.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Analysis by Synthesis 114 is used by the CELP coder for weakly-voiced frames to encode the pitch, pitch-predictor gain, fixed-codebook contribution, and codebook gain. The initial pitch estimate is obtained from the pitch-and-voicing analysis. The fixed codebook is a sparse codebook with four pulses per 10 ms (80-sample) sub-frame. The pitch-predictor gain and the fixed excitation gain are quantized jointly by Quantization ~~112~~ 110.

Please replace the fifth paragraph on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Postfilter 144 with coefficients derived from LP parameters provides ~~--~~ enhanced formant peaks.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

The {X[k]} may be estimated by applying a discrete Fourier transform to the samples of a single period (or small number of periods) of e(n) as in Figures 3b-3c 2a-2b. The preferred embodiment only uses the magnitudes of the Fourier coefficients, although the phases could also be used. Because the LP residual components {e(n)} are real, the discrete Fourier transform coefficients {X(k)} are conjugate symmetric: X(k) = X*(N-k) for an N-point discrete Fourier transform. Thus only half of the {X(k)} need be used for magnitude considerations. Of course, with a pitch period of p samples, N will be an integer equal to [p] or [p]+1.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

(2) apply speech activity detection to each of the six eight 20-sample sub-frames of the frame; the speech activity detection may be by the sum of squares of samples with a threshold.

Please replace paragraph (12) on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

(12) pick the pitch candidate as follows (compare Figure 3): if pcorr[0] is less than 4*threshold, then put i = −1; if pcorr[0] is at least 4*threshold, then i = 0 unless pcorr[k] is at least 0.8*pcorr[0], then take i = the largest such k unless additionally pcorr[k] is less than 0.9*pcorr[0] in which case take i = −1.